

ogy in Canada, very promptly and effectually disposes of the rest of the scheme as impracticable and mischievous. He states, in very plain terms, that Canada has not at present the means for undertaking such a task, having neither ornithologists equipped with the requisite experience and technical knowledge of the subject, nor collections sufficiently large to serve as anything like an adequate basis for such work. He very rudely pricks the bubble of Canadian assumption by stating some very plain facts, namely: "If all the bird skins in the Dominion were combined they would not make a good working collection. In no one Museum in the country are the birds of even a small locality well represented. There are a few creditable private collections, but none of these contain a sufficient series of skins to show the variations in plumage of all the species—the variations of sex and age and seasons, to say nothing of individual and geographical variation." This is not said unkindly, nor with a view so much to expose the weakness of Canadian ornithological resources, as to arouse greater activity, and particularly to stimulate interest in ornithology and kindred sciences in Government circles, in connection with the present Canadian Geological Survey. While this Survey has done admirable work in many departments of science, and has earned an enviable reputation for the originality and thoroughness of its work, it has given little attention to zoölogy. This seems primarily due to an impression, rather generally entertained across the border, that the animals of Canada are already well-known. We trust that Mr. Chamberlain's plain statements, his appeals, and his example of energetic and intelligent activity in his favorite fields of ornithology and mammalogy, will arouse general interest and lead to fruitful results.—J. A. A.

Sclater and Hudson's 'Argentine Ornithology.'*—A hand-book of the birds of any portion of South America is sure to meet a 'long-felt want,' and when undertaken by authors so well fitted for the task as in the present case is to be especially welcomed. Dr. Slater's long familiarity with 'Neotropical' birds renders him eminently qualified for the technical portion of the work; while Mr. Hudson's long residence in the Argentine Republic, and his unquestioned ability as an observer, imparts to the biographical part an equal trustworthiness. Rarely more than a page is devoted to a species, 229 species being treated in a space of 208 pages. Some of the more common or better known species are noticed by Mr. Hudson at considerable length, while in other cases there is little more than the technical description. Mr. Barrow's notes on the 'Birds of the Lower Uruguay,' published in this journal, 1883-84, are often quoted at length. References are given to the special literature of the subject. The technical

* *Argentine Ornithology.* | A | Descriptive Catalogue | of the | Birds of the Argentine Republic. | By | P. L. Slater, M. A., Ph.D., F. R. S., Etc. | With Notes on their Habits | by | W. H. Hudson, C. M. Z. S., | late of Buenos Ayres | [Vignette]. The Cariama. | — | Volume I. | — | London : | R. H. Porter, 6 Tenterden Street, W. | 1888. 8vo, pp. i-xv, 1-208, pll. col. i-x.

descriptions are brief, rarely occupying more than five to ten lines, and relate generally to the adult plumage only. It is, therefore, what it purports to be, a 'Descriptive Catalogue,' rather than an elaborate treatise, and despite the absence of much that might be desired, did the scope of the work render it admissible, will prove extremely useful as a manual of Argentine ornithology. Ten beautifully colored plates illustrate the first volume, devoted to the Passeres. Volume II, treating the remaining orders, is announced to appear during the present year. — J. A. A.

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